

HEALTH  
30 OCT 1948  
C.R.

**Rural District of St. Faith's  
and Aylsham**

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**THE  
ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.)

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT OF THE

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

(H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E.)

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**1945**

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Alex P. Agnew, M.B., C.M.),

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faith's and Aylsham

NORFOLK

**For the Year 1945**

Though the middle of the year saw the cessation of hostilities in Europe and the Far East the full routine work of the Sanitary Services was hampered by the shortage of staff and materials. Nevertheless a great deal of progress was made towards overtaking arrears of housing and arranging and planning for improved water supplies and the construction of new and extension of existing Sewerage Schemes. For details see the Sanitary Inspector's report following this.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) ... ..	93,119
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	25,648
Population (estimated resident 1945) ... ..	33,520
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931) ... ..	7,660
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1945 ... ..	£147,035
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate ... ..	£554
Number of Evacuees remaining in District on 31st December, 1945 ... ..	125

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Deaths.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths (all ages) ... ..	178	177	355
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... ..			10.59
Deaths from Measles ... ..			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..			2

#### Births.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	287	268	555
Illegitimate ... ..	57	35	92
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... ..			19.30
Still Births—Legitimate ... ..	9	7	16
Illegitimate ... ..	2		2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births ... ..			27.07

Infantile Mortality.						Male Female Total.		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age								
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.18
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.62
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.61

### **Maternal Mortality.**

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :								
From Sepsis	...	Nil.	From other causes	...	1.	Total	1	
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births...						...	...	1.50

### **England and Wales.**

For the purpose of comparison I here give comparable rates of England and Wales for 1945 :—

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.1
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	46

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

Following up observations in the last report regarding the lack of nursing provision for the sick, and especially for the chronic aged sick, while I have no figures to prove it, my impression is that the position is substantially worse. Measures should be taken without delay to solve this difficult situation. When hospitals, even Isolation Hospitals, are compelled to close wards for lack of nursing facilities however urgent the cases requiring admission, it is surely time to take drastic action. During the War the government assumed powers to direct personnel to work of national importance, such as mines and agriculture, and while I hesitate to recommend anything that savours of compulsion or outright conscription, I feel some steps should be taken in the direction of offering very generous emoluments to suitable persons both male and female with some nursing training or experience to offer their services for the emergency. As well as hospital nursing staffs there is a great shortage of District Nurses, Health Visitors and Home Helps. I have already stated that for the lack of these the aged and chronic invalids are being forced to end their days in Public Assistance Institutions which may be, but in some cases definitely are not, suitable. If the state takes over the Voluntary Hospitals there would appear to be a great opportunity here for those charitably minded people who have in the past supported these hospitals to now support and endow houses for the aged and incurables and similar organisations.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Throughout the year the protecting of many children has been effected.

We are now able to assess the value of this service since its inauguration in 1940, and we are also able to see where our efforts to afford full protection fail. That brings us to questions :—

- (1) Are the reagents we are using the best ?
- (2) Are they being given in adequate doses ?
- (3) How long does immunity last and, arising out of this, how can we find out ?

A lot of work is being done dealing with these points. As regards the last experience is showing that more general recourse might be made of Schick Testing. The cost of this service should be defrayed by the Local Authorities and made available to all requesting it. Experience to date also tends to show that the injections given, say at or about the first birthday, should be followed by one on entry to School.

When the National Medical Services are in operation the appointment of a qualified practitioner in each district to be responsible for the carrying out of the whole of this important service might be advisable in the same manner as the present Vaccination Acts, and I make the further suggestion that when a child has been fully treated the parent or parents should be given a Certificate to that effect.

We have now immunised since the beginning of the service :—

958 Children under 5 years of age on 31st December, 1945.

1,388 Children between 5 and 9 years of age on 31st December, 1945.

1,598 Children between 10 and 14 years of age on 31st December, 1945.

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3,944 Total

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To this total 1,889 now over 15 years of age should be added.

During the year 518 children completed a full course of treatment.

Here are some enlightening figures on the effects of immunisation, on the incidence and mortality of Diphtheria :—

*Average* yearly number of cases in England and Wales :—

In decade 1911–20 — 51,757

„ 1921–30 — 54,889

„ 1931–40 — 55,388

*Actual* number of cases in 1944 was 29,446, and as regards mortality we find that prior to 1941 the deaths in England and Wales were never below 2,000, but in 1942 they dropped to 1,827, in 1943 to 1,371, in 1944 to 934 and in 1945 to 720.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The cases of Infectious Diseases which were notified are as follows :—

				<i>Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	20	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	10	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	14	—
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	26	—
Measles	...	...	...	225	—
Jaundice	...	...	...	35	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	1

(Of the three cases of Diphtheria there is no record of them being immunised.)

## TUBERCULOSIS

		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>
		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Cases on Register,	31st					
December, 1944		58	25	49	39	171
Cases on Register	31st					
December, 1945	...	62	28	48	39	177

### *New Cases and Mortality During 1945.*

Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	...	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
20 to 25 years	...	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 years	...	3	6	2	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	...	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 to 55 years	...	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
55 to 65 years	...	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 years and over	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	...	11	10	9	8	1	5	2	2

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1945

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	6
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... ..	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	2	—
Influenza ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio- Encephalitis ... ..	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesopha- gus (M) Uterus (F) ... ..	4	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	1
Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	2
Cancer of all Other Sites ... ..	18	15
Diabetes ... ..	—	2
Intra Cranial Lesions ... ..	16	29
Heart Disease ... ..	54	54
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	5
Bronchitis ... ..	12	10
Pneumonia ... ..	6	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	2	—
Appendicitis ... ..	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	4	3
Nephritis ... ..	5	2
Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis ...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	1
Premature Birth ... ..	2	4
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases ...	1	2
Suicide ... ..	1	3
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	2	3
Other Violent Causes ... ..	9	3
All other Causes ... ..	20	23
Totals ... ..	178	177

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

With the return of more and more men from the Services the shortage of houses becomes more acute, but as previously commented on, arrears of building are being gradually overtaken. For further details see the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

## WATER SUPPLY

See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

## DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING

See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

## THE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER

See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

I have had no reports of malnutrition during the war years and the general health of the community has been excellent throughout.

In conclusion I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman and the Council and Officials for continued and invaluable help afforded to me at all times during the year.

(Signed) ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

Red House,  
Wymondham, Norfolk.

September, 1946



# Sanitary Inspector's Report

for the Year 1945

## NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK

Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	566
Revisits to ascertain progress of work ...	...	592
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases ...	...	41
Rooms Disinfected ...	...	46
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies ...	...	494
Inspections of Slaughter-houses and Food Premises ...	...	470
Inspections of Bakehouses ...	...	58
Inspections of Workshops ...	...	18
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes ...	...	1095
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	...	3
Inspections under the Petroleum Acts ...	...	37
Other visits, interviewing owners, repair of War Damage, etc.	...	957
Inspections under Building Byelaws ...	...	342
Inspections in connection with the issue of Building Licenses	...	399
TOTAL ...	...	5118

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The slaughtering of all animals to provide meat for human consumption continues to be under the control of the Ministry of Food and there is one Slaughter house situate in this district which is used for this purpose.

The following are particulars of the work carried out in connection with Meat and Food Inspection during the year.

Number of carcasses inspected :—

Beef ...	2326
Pork ...	1039
Mutton ...	3583
Veal ...	1129
TOTAL ...	8077

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis :—

## BEEF—

38	Carcases and all Offal (33)
13	Forequarters (13)
2193	lbs. Beef (1904 lbs.)
286	Heads (265)
208	Tongues (187)
425	Livers (97)
341	Parts Livers
453	Sets Lungs (420)
106	Mesenteries (98)
14	Spleens (11)
8	Hearts (4)
39	Kidneys (11)

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were :—

Abscesses	Injuries
Actinomycosis	Melanosis
Angioma	Necrosis
Bone Taint	Nephritis
Cirrhosis	Oedema
Congestion	Pentastomum
Decomposition	Pneumonia
Distomatosis	Septicaemia
Echinococcus	Septic Pericarditis
Fatty Infiltration	Tumours
Fever	Uraemia
Fibrosis	

## PORK—

19	Carcases and all Offal (5)
78	lbs. Pork
37	Heads (37)
9	Kidneys
32	Sets Lungs (12)
3	Hearts
21	Livers (10)
13	Mesenteries (13)

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were :—

Arthritis	Injuries
Cirrhosis	Oedema
Fever	Pneumonia
Immaturity	Swine Erysipelas
Inflammation	Swine Fever

## MUTTON—

4 Whole Carcases and Offal  
19 lbs. Mutton  
373 Sets Lungs  
204 Livers  
3 Kidneys  
1 Head

Reasons for condemnation were :—

Abscesses	Injuries
Dropsy	Parasites
Fever	Pneumonia
Inflammation	

## VEAL—

5 Whole Carcases and Offal (2)  
4 Livers (4)  
4 Sets Lungs (1)  
2 Heads (2)

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were :—

Inflammation	Necrosis
Melanosis	Pyæmia

## OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

238 Tins of Meat and Fish  
26 Tins Milk, Plums, Peas, etc.  
38 lbs. Cheese  
205 lbs. Dates, Prunes, Raisins

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 209 Cowkeepers on the Council's register and the following is a summary of the work carried out during the year in connection with these Producers' and Retailers' Premises.

### CLEANLINESS OF PREMISES—

Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	44
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Premises where dirty milking stools were cleansed	...					4
Dirty cowshed floors cleansed		...	...	...		9
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...			7
Other contraventions of the Milk & Dairies Order remedied	...	...	...	...	...	32

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS IN PREMISES—

New Cowsheds erected	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowshed floors repaired or amended	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage of Dairies or Cowsheds provided or amended						6
Wash or storage Dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairy Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Additional lighting provided to Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	2
Entrance yards to Cowsheds made up	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sterilisers provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	11

As in previous years a number of complaints were received of milk becoming sour within a short time of delivery and in these days of restricted supplies the loss involved becomes particularly serious. The period between production and consumption is often too long and some supplied in that part of the district which is urban in character must be at least 36 hours old before delivery to the consumer. It may safely be said that in general the conditions and methods in which milk is produced have improved considerably in the last two decades, but the advantages gained are to some degree, at least, lost in the time taken to deliver it to the consumer in comparison with the twice daily deliveries which at one time used to be in operation. Pasteurisation may be necessary, but it should be regarded only as a commercial process to maintain the keeping quality as to rely on it entirely to remove the results of faulty methods of production and destroy any Tubercle Bacilli may quite possibly lead to a false sense of security. The process would not be practicable in connection with supplies in a rural area and even where it is adopted there is a need for a defined standard of cleanliness for all milk comparable with that prescribed for designated milks.

MILK SAMPLING

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

On behalf of the County Council samples of milk produced at the premises of holders of Accredited Licences were collected for examination and the following are particulars of the number and results of these samples taken during the year 1945 :—

		<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
“Accredited ” Producers	...	93	58	35
“Accredited ” Applicants	...	1	1	Nil
		—	—	—
TOTALS ...	...	94	59	35
		—	—	—



The following table shows in detail the results of the samples :—

				Winter Months		Summer Months	
				Producers	Applicants	Producers	Applicants
Samples not Decolourised ...				11	1	39	—
Ditto, but containing B. Coli.				—	—	8	—
* —————							
Decolourised in 5½ hours	...			—	—	—	—
„ 5 „	...			—	—	—	—
„ 4½ „	...			—	—	—	—
„ 4 „	...			—	—	6	—
„ 3½ „	...			—	—	7	—
„ 3 „	...			2	—	5	—
„ 2½ „	...			—	—	5	—
„ 2 „	...			—	—	5	—
„ 1½ „	...			—	—	2	—
„ 1 „	...			—	—	3	—
„ ½ „	...			—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	...	...	...	13	1	80	Nil

\*Samples below this line failed to pass the test.

## BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

In addition to the above 126 samples were taken of milk produced at Retailers' premises for examination for the detection of Tubercle Bacilli on behalf of the County Council. Of these the examination of 79 was completed and in every case Tubercle Bacilli was not found. Unfortunately the number of samples taken is not so high as in the previous year, but the only reason for this is that the laboratory facilities for examination were restricted.

Although the results obtained are very favourable, reference should be made to figures already given for Meat Inspection which indicate a heavy incidence of Tuberculosis in bovine animals and it is therefore extremely necessary that an intensive programme of sampling for Biological Examination should be maintained in operation.

## SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE

The following are the schemes which are in operation in the district :—

### BY DIRECT LABOUR—

Catton, Coltishall, Hellesdon, Horsham St. Faith's with Newton St. Faith's and Sprowston. The removal of Night Soil and House Refuse.

Aylsham. The removal of Night Soil and House Refuse.

Lenwade. The removal of Night Soil.

## BY CONTRACT.

Foulsham. The removal of Night Soil and House Refuse.

Hackford and Reepham, wards of Reepham. The removal of Night Soil and House Refuse.

Wroxham. The removal of Night Soil and House Refuse.

With the ending of the war some of the difficulties in connection with Scavenging were removed, and as a result it was possible to maintain regular collections. It is hoped that circumstances will permit the extending of the service to other parishes, but labour continued to be in short supply and new vehicles difficult to obtain up to the end of the year.

The householders in the district took full advantage of the Cesspool Emptying Vehicle and it was found to be possible to reduce the charges for this service to 15s. for the first load of 750 gallons and 10s. for each additional load or part of a load.

During the year the amount of Salvage collected and disposed of was 163 tons which represents a very considerable reduction on the previous year. Although there is no doubt that to some degree the reduction is accounted for by the feeling by the public that the need for Salvage is not so urgent it should also be remembered that the district has been efficiently combed and that the amount of material available for collection as Salvage is comparatively small.

## DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES

Full particulars in respect of these matters are contained in my report for the year 1944. Progress was made in the preparation of schemes for providing sewers and piped water supply in every parish in the district.

## CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL

As from the 1st August the Council was charged with the duty of controlling the issue of Licenses in connection with all new Housing Accommodation and also for essential work where the cost did not exceed £100. The carrying out of this duty involves a considerable amount of work as in fairness to applicants inspections must necessarily be made in order to determine whether the proposed work is essential or not. It is to be regretted that present conditions render such a measure of control necessary at a period when the carrying out of a very extensive programme of repair and the building of new houses is most urgently needed while the time and personnel required to exercise this control would in more fortunate circumstances be devoted in preparing and carrying out housing proposals. It is to be hoped the supply of labour and material will progressively improve and so reduce the need for restrictive control to a minimum and permit additional time to be devoted to more constructive duties in improving housing conditions and carrying out the Housing Survey.

The following is a summary of work carried out in connection with Civil Building Control :—

#### NEW HOUSES—

No. of houses for which applications for Building Licenses were received ... ..	65
No. of houses for which Licenses were issued ...	62
No. of houses for which Licenses were refused ...	3

#### REPAIR OF HOUSES AND OTHER WORK—

No. of applications received ... ..	480
No. of applications refused ... ..	22
No. of Licenses issued ... ..	428

#### MAINTENANCE LICENSES—

No. of applications received ... ..	7
No. of applications refused ... ..	4
No. of Licenses issued ... ..	3

In addition to the above 65 recommendations were made to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works as to the issue of Licenses.

### HOUSING

Considerable progress was made in the Council's programme of post-war housing and at the end of the year 38 houses were in course of erection, 16 in Aylsham, 6 in Coltishall, 6 in Salhouse, 6 in Spixworth and 4 in St. Faiths. In addition 39 houses were in course of erection by private enterprise, and 11 war-damaged houses were being rebuilt.

It is to be regretted that owing to pressure of other duties it was not possible to carry out much work in connection with the Housing Survey, but every effort will be made to complete this as quickly as possible.

As a result of the need for priority to be given for the erection of new houses it is possible only to ask for essential repairs to be carried out at existing houses being merely sufficient to maintain them in a wind and watertight condition.

### BAKEHOUSES

There are 23 Bakehouses in the district and 58 visits of inspection have been made.

Ten notices were served and the following works carried out :—

Bakehouses limewashed ... ..	8
Floors cleansed or repaired ... ..	5
Other items ... ..	8



# SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

During the year 164 notices have been served in connection with Public Health and Housing defects, and as a result the following works have been carried out :—

## HOUSING—

Pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	2
Additional pail closets provided	...	...	...	...	1
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	12
New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	12
Rainwater guttering provided	...	...	...	...	6
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	29
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Window frames made to open	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	15
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	10

## DRAINAGE :

Ditches and watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	16
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	22

## MISCELLANEOUS :

Nuisances from animals and fowls abated	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	6

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E.

Tudor Hall,  
Rose Lane,  
Norwich.

September, 1946.









